

**What is claimed is:**

1           1. A method for assembling carbon particles into at least one aligned fiber, the  
2 method comprising the step of drawing glass containing carbon particles into a fiber.

1           2. The invention as defined in claim 1 wherein said carbon particles are carbon  
2 nanotube molecules.

1           3. The invention as defined in claim 1 wherein said carbon particles are carbon  
2 fibrils.

1           4. The invention as defined in claim 1 further comprising the step of twisting said  
2 fiber.

1           5. The invention as defined in claim 1 further comprising the step of twisting said  
2 fiber while heating said fiber to facilitate its twisting.

1           6. The invention as defined in claim 1 further comprising the step of heating said  
2 glass containing carbon particles while drawing it.

1           7. The invention as defined in claim 1 wherein said drawing step produces a  
2 plurality of aligned fibers, the method further comprising the step of twisting said  
3 plurality of fibers, whereby said aligned nanotube fibers are drawn towards the axis of  
4 said fiber so as to expel glass that was located between and within said aligned fibers  
5 prior to performing said twisting.

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1           8. The invention as defined in claim 1 further comprising the step of forming said  
2 glass containing carbon particles.

1           9. The invention as defined in claim 8 wherein said forming step further  
2 comprises the step of solidifying a mixture of carbon particles within a sol-gel solution  
3 whereby a body is formed.

1           10. The invention as defined in claim 9 wherein said forming step further  
2 comprises the step of dispersing carbon particles within said sol-gel solution to form said  
3 mixture.

1           11. The invention as defined in claim 9 wherein said solidifying step further  
2 comprises the step of adding an ester to said mixture.

1           12. The invention as defined in claim 9 wherein said body is porous

1           13. The invention as defined in claim 9 further comprising the step of imbuing  
2 said body with at least one other material.

1           14. The invention as defined in claim 9 further comprising the step of heating  
2 said preform to consolidate it, whereby a consolidated body is formed.

1           15. The invention as defined in claim 9 further comprising the step of  
2 incorporating said body into a larger body to form a preform.

1           16. The invention as defined in claim 15 wherein said larger body is a glass body  
2 having a hole.

1           17. The invention as defined in claim 15 wherein said incorporating step further  
2 comprises the step of heating said larger body to consolidate it.

1           18. The invention as defined in claim 15 further comprising the step of  
2 incorporating at least one other body into said larger body so that said perform contains  
3 multiple bodies.

1           19. The invention as defined in claim 1 further comprising the step of removing  
2 some glass from said fiber.

1           20. The invention as defined in claim 19 wherein said glass that is removed is  
2 from an exterior portion of said fiber.

1           21. The invention as defined in claim 19 wherein said removing is performed  
2 using at least a mechanical process.

1           22. The invention as defined in claim 19 wherein said removing is performed  
2 using at least a chemical process.

1           23. A glass fiber containing carbon particles.

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1           24. The invention as defined in claim 23 wherein said carbon particles are carbon  
2 nanotube molecules.

1  
1           25. The invention as defined in claim 23 wherein said carbon particles are carbon  
2 fibrils.

1           26. A method for assembling carbon particles into at least one aligned fiber, the  
2 method comprising the step of drawing a preform of glass containing carbon particles into  
3 a fiber, whereby said carbon particles are substantially aligned.

1           27. The invention as defined in claim 26 wherein said carbon particles are carbon  
2 nanotube molecules.

1           28. The invention as defined in claim 26 wherein said carbon particles are carbon  
2   fibrils.

1           29. A plurality of carbon-particles-with-at-least-some-glass fibers, said fibers  
2   having been drawn substantially together from a single preform.

1           30. The invention as defined in claim 29 wherein said carbon-particles-with-at-  
2   least-some-glass fibers are twisted together.

1           31. The invention as defined in claim 29 wherein said carbon particles are carbon  
2   nanotube molecules.

          32. The invention as defined in claim 29 wherein said carbon particles are carbon  
fibrils.

1           33. A glass-carbon particle fiber comprising aligned carbon particles commingled  
2   with at least some glass.

1           34. The invention as defined in claim 33 wherein said carbon particles were  
2   aligned while said fiber was drawn.

1           35. The invention as defined in claim 33 wherein said carbon particles are carbon  
2   nanotube molecules.

1           36. The invention as defined in claim 33 wherein said carbon particles are carbon  
2   fibrils.

1           37. A carbon particle fiber comprising aligned carbon particles that were aligned  
2   by having been drawn while intermixed within a carrier substance.

1           38. The invention as defined in claim 37 wherein said carbon particles are carbon  
2 nanotube molecules.

1           39. The invention as defined in claim 37 wherein said carbon particles are carbon  
2 fibrils.

1           40. A method for producing at least one fiber, the method comprising the steps  
2 of:  
3           embedding said carbon particles in glass; and  
4           drawing said glass with said embedded carbon particles into a fiber so that said  
5 carbon particles are substantially aligned within said fiber.

1           41. The invention as defined in claim 40 wherein said carbon particles are carbon  
2 nanotube molecules.